

Message

From: Ross, Mary [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98359CD1F66F46EC91D327E99A3C6909-ROSS, MARY]
Sent: 5/11/2015 1:30:11 PM
To: NCEA Roundtable [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=4327875ca08f41458207b25addc3429f-NCEA Roundtable]
Subject: FW: ORD/OSA Weekly Report

I've been remiss in not forwarding the ORD weekly reports to you; will send it to the Roundtable group and you can circulate further if you wish. The NCEA trip to Egypt and Saudia Arabia is featured here, as well as mention of the Fracking reports and harmful algal blooms work. The highlights that everyone provides each week to Lou D'Amico are considered for inclusion in the ORD weekly report.

From: Blackburn, Elizabeth
Sent: Sunday, May 10, 2015 2:25 PM
To: ORD-Exec-Council-Directors; Preuss, Peter; ORD-Mgmt-Council
Subject: Fwd: ORD/OSA Weekly Report

Happy Mother's Day!

Please see Tom's note to the Administrator below.

Liz

Liz Blackburn
Chief of Staff (acting)
USEPA Office of Research and Development
202-564-2192
Cell Personal Matters / Ex. 6
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Burke, Thomas" <Burke.Thomas@epa.gov>
Date: May 10, 2015 at 2:17:41 PM EDT
To: "Adm13McCarthy, Gina" <Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov>, "KeyesFleming, Gwendolyn" <KeyesFleming.Gwendolyn@epa.gov>, "Meiburg, Stan" <Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov>, "Reynolds, Thomas" <Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov>, "Beauvais, Joel" <Beauvais.Joel@epa.gov>, "Fritz, Matthew" <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>, "Vaught, Laura" <Vaught.Laura@epa.gov>, "Pieh, Luseni" <Pieh.Luseni@epa.gov>, "Rupp, Mark" <Rupp.Mark@epa.gov>, "Garbow, Avi" <Garbow.Avi@epa.gov>, "Bond, Brian" <Bond.Brian@epa.gov>, "Garvin, Shawn" <garvin.shawn@epa.gov>
Cc: "Kadeli, Lek" <Kadeli.Lek@epa.gov>, "Kavlock, Robert" <Kavlock.Robert@epa.gov>, "Blackburn, Elizabeth" <Blackburn.Elizabeth@epa.gov>, "Smith, Kelley" <Smith.Kelley@epa.gov>, "Deener, Kathleen" <Deener.Kathleen@epa.gov>, "Hubbard, Carolyn" <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>, "Kim, Hyon" <Kim.Hyon@epa.gov>
Subject: ORD/OSA Weekly Report

Dear Administrator,

I am so pleased to note that our own Bob Kavlock is one of the three EPA finalists for a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal!

Bob's work in ORD, leading advancements in toxicology and how chemicals are tested and screened, has had an impact around the world. His ability to combine 21st Century science and innovation with his leadership in networking and collaboration are ushering in a new paradigm for collaborative, efficient, and impactful research. His efforts are reflected in the Tox21 program, which uses robotic technology to screen thousands of chemicals for potential toxicity and has led to more than 150 EPA research agreements with a wide range of partners. While Bob's work in this area has a global reach, it also has a real impact on the lives of Americans, helping us to better understand the effects of chemicals on our daily lives. We are all really proud of him.

Harmful Algal Blooms

Last week I participated in the press call with Peter Grevatt and Betsy Shaw to announce the health advisories for harmful algal blooms. The call and media stories went very well. OW is hosting a stakeholder meeting on May 11. ORD's Tom Speth and Darren Lytle will participate to provide technical support related to implementation.

Hydraulic Fracturing

As you are aware, the date for rollout of the assessment report is now May 28. This week we will be working on communications and traveling to Denver, Dallas, and Philadelphia to brief states and tribes. We continue to work closely with OPA, the RAs, Teresa Marks, and others to prepare for the release.

ORD Collaborates with EPA Region 5, USGS, and NOAA on Lake Michigan Nearshore Research

ORD scientists are contributing to the science needed under the U.S./Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and OW's

National Coastal Condition Assessments to understand the response of Lake Michigan's food chains to nutrient loading, invasive species, and climate change.

ORD's 90-foot *R/V Lake Explorer* and Region 5's 180-foot *R/V Lake Guardian* will conduct intensive coordinated sampling in May, July, and September to (1) study patterns in nutrient and algal distribution, (2) develop a nearshore water quality model to better understand algal response to nutrient loading, (3) use isotopic tracers to determine the influence of nutrient loadings on the lake food webs, and (4) use automated underwater vehicles to develop 3-D maps of physical and biological variables over large swaths of the lake.

STEM Outreach

On May 11, 5th graders at Holt Elementary School in Durham will do three hands-on activities to help them learn simple things that they can do to help protect the environment. First, they will collect temperature data in sunny and shady areas and on different surfaces including grass and sidewalks to see how our built environment can influence temperature. Second, they will learn how they can take an active role in conserving electricity by using Watts Meters to measure the energy use of various appliances and classroom devices. Finally they will get their hands dirty working in the school garden and learn about where their food comes from and how food choices impact their health and the environment. This will be EPA's second visit to Holt this school year and is a collaborative effort with the City of Durham's Neighborhood Improvement Services.

On Tuesday May 12th at Lowes Grove Middle School, students will teach community members about air quality through the EPA's Air Quality Index and the "EPA air sensor kit". On Thursday May 14th at Neal Middle School, they will demonstrate how to use low-cost water and air sensors, while discussing their self-designed citizen science projects.

EPA participates in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition, will be held May 11-15 in Pittsburgh, PA. ORD staff will participate as judges to help select the winner of EPA's Patrick H. Hurd Sustainability Award. EPA will also be kicking off a sub-challenge for data visualization at Intel ISEF that will allow students a special opportunity to showcase their data visualization skills. Students will transform publicly available government data sets for nitrogen and phosphorus water pollution data into innovative visual representations.

Annual Laboratory Technical Information Group Conference

ORD's Warren Boothman will present "Assessing the extent and duration of hypoxia through molybdenum accumulation in coastal sediments" on May 12 at the 18th Annual Laboratory Technical Information Group Conference, hosted by Region 1. Dr. Boothman will present an innovative approach using measurement of molybdenum in sediment as a geochemical marker of hypoxia in the overlying water column to examine the spatial distribution of hypoxia within coastal water bodies. The conference includes scientists from each regional lab, ORD, the National Enforcement Investigations Center, OGWDW, and OSWER.

Save The Bay®

On May 13, ORD scientists will present to the Policy Committee of the Save The Bay® Board. Save The Bay® protects, restores, and improves the ecological health of the Narragansett Bay region, through an ecosystem-based approach to environmental action. It defends the right of the public to use and enjoy the Bay and its surrounding waters and fosters an ethic of environmental stewardship. The presentation will emphasize research on the effects of nutrients and co-pollutants that is being conducted within the Narragansett Bay Watershed.

Environmental Justice Meeting with the Department of Health and Human Services

On May 12, representatives from ORD, OEJ and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will meet again to discuss

potential collaborations on environmental justice-related research. ORD's Sustainable and Healthy Communities research program is proposing five possible areas of collaboration for discussion at the meeting. This coordination with HHS is part of ORD's outreach efforts associated with the agency's draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda, which includes the EJ Research Roadmap as one of its key components.

Recognition from the US Coast Guard

The US Coast Guard Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICCOPR) Chair has recognized ORD's **Robyn Conmy** for service on the Research & Technology Plan workgroup with a Coast Guard-Marine Environmental Response medallion. The ICCOPR allows federal partners to map out oil pollution research and coordinate on spill prevention, preparedness and response. Next year, Robyn will serve as the rotating Vice Chair. ORD and OSWER staff attend ICCOPR meetings to ensure that the EPA oil research and program office efforts are dovetailing effectively with other agencies.

Last Week

ORD and OW Brief CEQ and OMB on Ecosystem Services

On April 27, ORD and OW introduced the Final Ecosystem Goods and Services Classification System (FEGS-CS) and the National Ecosystem Services Classification System (NESCO) to CEQ and OMB. The information presented can assist the CEQ in coordinating among Federal entities regarding the use and incorporation of ecosystem services in decision making.

Human Animal Health Conference in Egypt

Ken Olden, John Vandenberg, Ila Cote and Abdel Kadry made plenary presentations at the Risk Application in Food Matrix and its Impact on Human and Animal Health conference in Cairo, Egypt May 3-4, 2015. They also met with the Minister of Agriculture to discuss pressing environmental issues and the role of risk assessment in addressing these concerns.

New Addition to National Center for Computational Toxicology

On May 4, Dr. Tony Williams joined ORD's Comp Tox Center as a new investigator. Dr. Williams is an internationally recognized leader in cheminformatics and data integration and he brings a broad range of experience to ORD and the Center. Prior to joining EPA, Dr. Williams was the founder of ChemSpider (<http://www.chemspider.com/>) and the vice president of strategic development and cheminformatics at the Royal Society of Chemistry. Dr. Williams is also a former winner of the prestigious Microsoft eScience Jim Gray Award.

Meeting with Brazilian Delegation

Andy Miller met with three Brazilian officials on May 4 to discuss climate adaptation issues. The delegation was on a tour of the U.S., including EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities. The officials were representing the city of Belo Horizonte, the State of Rio de Janeiro, and the Center for Sustainability Studies, which is involved with the development of a national adaptation plan for Brazil. The discussions focused on interactions between federal, state, and local organizations in the U.S..

ORD's Wayne Cascio Participates in Twitter Chat on Stroke

In observance of May as National Stroke Awareness Month, the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke at NIH hosted a Twitter chat (#StrokeTalk) on May 5. Wayne Cascio participated via @EPAresearch and shared factsheets and online content about the connections among air quality, strokes, and brain health. @EPAresearch's 13 original tweets were retweeted 30 times, favorited 20 times, and had a reach (i.e., number of unique individuals who received timeline deliveries of hashtagged messages) of 107,318, and all 517 contributing tweets reached an audience of 8,184,159.

ORD Hosts Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

ORD hosted a presentation on May 5 with Dr. James Berner of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, a STAR Tribal Grantee. Dr. Berner introduced findings from a fourteen year U.S. EPA supported human and wildlife bio monitoring program. With his familiarity of tribal health and communities, he developed a grant to appraise whether climate change is

affecting the Yupik people. In his presentation, he focused on the impact of the warming Arctic on the safety of the Traditional diet of rural pregnant Yupik women. Through the support of EPA STAR grants, Dr. Berner and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium have contributed impactful human and ecological information that has increased understanding of Alaska Native health, climate change and overall Arctic and global health.

Federal Asthma Disparities Action Plan

ORD's Jim Johnson represented EPA at the Federal Asthma Disparities Action Plan (ADAP) principals meeting on May 6. Principals from the 20 agencies who signed on to the Action Plan are working to develop a mid-course progress report and a next steps document that will be sent to you and the other Task Force co-chairs, Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell of the Department of Health and Human Services and Secretary Julian Castro of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Technical support to Region 9 at Yerington Mine Site, May 6-7.

ORD visited the Yerington Mine Site in Yerington, NV, to participate in technical meetings with Region 9's Remedial Project Manager to scope bedrock characterization activities for the remedial investigation. Discussions concentrated on appropriate studies to evaluate groundwater flow and contaminant transport in the fractured rock underlying the site. Also in attendance were representatives of Yerington Paiute tribe, Bureau of Land Management, and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection.

ORD Meets with Utah Valley University

ORD led a meeting and discussion on May 7 with researchers from Utah Valley University in response to a meeting request from Senator Hatch's office. The university requested to receive an overview of the EPA extramural research program, funding opportunities, and the application process.

The FDA National Center for Toxicological Research's Toxicology Study Selection and Review Committee Meeting

On May 5-6, ORD scientists participated in a discussion on a new inorganic arsenic research project at the FDA National Center for Toxicological Research's Toxicology Study Selection and Review Committee Meeting. The discussions will be used to inform the development of FDA sponsored studies on the carcinogenicity of inorganic arsenic and to help address data gaps for future risk assessments.

ORD Researcher Featured in Faces of EPA Video

ORD's Dixon Landers has been featured in the latest "Faces of EPA" video on YouTube.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4KjOFplqds>).

Dr. Landers explains his personal motivations for protecting the environment, saying: "I'd like people to understand that we're totally dependent on the environment. If we don't make the right decisions, some of the things will be lost forever," Dr. Landers concludes by saying, "We need to be better able to quantify the environment, so we can make better decisions about the environment and for people. And, that's what we're trying to do."

OSP's Region 10 Superfund and Technology Liaison Recognized by OSWER/OSRTI Honor Awards

On May 7, Kira Lynch, ORD's Region 10 Superfund and Technology Liaison, was awarded the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation 2014 Teamwork Award. Kira was recognized for her work to help improve the understanding of subsurface contamination and support of remedy selection at the Wyckoff/Eagle Harbor Superfund site on Bainbridge Island, WA. The site encompasses the former Wyckoff wood-treating facility and a former shipyard.

Publications

Fann, NL; Lamson AD; **Luben, TJ**; Hubbel BJ (2015). Response to: "Enhancing the characterization of epistemic uncertainties in PM2.5 risk analyses". Risk Analysis, 35 (3) p. 379-380.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/risa.12301/abstract>
(*Tom Luben collaborated on a commentary with colleagues from OAR in response to a recent article by Smith and Gans that*

described several ways in which the Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program used by the Agency could be modified to support and enhance uncertainty analyses. The commentary raised questions about the proposed modifications, such as the current evidence that supports a threshold for PM2.5 mortality effects, and the current evidence that provides a rationale for estimating the risks attributes to PM2.5 components.)